

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154058
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HDCOLLUMS
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SCS:RDAVIS
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P 162146Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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LONDON FOR EWING, SPIERS, VEST, NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CARR, CASC, TU

SUBJECT: ANTAKYA THREE

REF: ANKARA 3900

1. TURKISH DCM NURES CALLED ON DEPT (EUR/SE) JUNE 13
FOR DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL ITEMS. DEPTOFF TOOK ADVAN-
TAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE IN GENERAL TERMS STATUS
OF ANTAKYA THREE AND PROPOSED TRANSFER TREATY. DEPTOFF
COMMENTED THAT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE EXPRESSIONS
OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER CASE, ESPECIALLY IN AFTER-
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MATH OF HIGHLY PUBLICIZED RETURN TO THE US OF AMERICANS
FORMERLY IMPRISONED IN MEXICO.

2. NURES SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN
RAISED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ANKARA WITH THE MFA.
HE AGREED TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE CASE.

3. DURING RECENT CONTACTS ON HILL IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORT TO LIFT TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO, DEPTOFFS HAVE ENCOUNTERED RENEWED INQUIRIES RE STATUS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN TURKEY, ESPECIALLY ANTAKYA THREE. IN BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSMEN AT WHITE HOUSE JUNE 15, CONGRESSMAN SAWYER (R-MICH) RAISED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT, INDICATING

THAT HE WAS THINKING OF OFFERING AN AMENDMENT ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE EXPRESSLY TYING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO TO THE RELEASE OF THESE THREE PEOPLE FROM PRISON. WE UNDERSTAND SAWYER HAS CIRCULATED A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES AND THAT SOME OTHER CONGRESSMEN MAY BE CONSIDERING SUPPORTING SUCH A MOVE. FYI: DEPT OF COURSE HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT ANTAKYA CASE AND EMBARGO ISSUE ARE ENTIRELY SEPARATE MATTERS AND IN NO WAY LINKED.
END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF RENEWED EXPRESSIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, EMBASSY SHOULD AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY APPROACH MFA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, NOTING CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN IN THIS CASE AND INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF PROPOSED TREATY. NEWSOM

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